

7 GROVE PARK, WESTMOUNT,
MONTREAL, CANADA.

8 July, '37.

Dear Dr. Robinson,

I sent on June 28 a set of the pamphlets "Is Evolution True?" with corrections; as you kindly propose to reprint them in "The Presbyterian".

I now enclose the two booklets "on" "The Inspired Bible" and "Miracles", in which I have made a few minor corrections which will be improvements.

These two booklets I sent to Mr. Wm. Norton, the Manager of the Bible Institute of Chicago, on July 1; as you kindly suggested to me. — I have explained fully how far they have been re-printed in India, the U. S. A., &c.; and as nothing has ever been paid to me for publication of these booklets, I feel at liberty to offer them to Mr. Norton for publication as "Evangel Booklets".

"Evangel Booklets," if he thinks well to do so. (Have not yet heard in reply.)

In thus submitting them to Mr. Norton, I have mentioned that you propose to bring them out in "The Presbyterian"; and in doing so that you will mention that this publication in "The Presbyterian" can be had in pamphlet form ^{from} the Colportage Association, if Mr. Norton decides to so publish them. This will be an advertisement for them.

It seems to me that these two booklets may be more opportune now than when originally written, about 1930. For it may be that what is said in them might receive more consideration and perhaps more acceptance now than formerly, for the point of view set forth.

Yours very cordially

W. Bell Dawson

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

THE CENTENNIAL YEAR
1937

July 9, 1937
(dict. July 7)

The Rev. Stewart M. Robinson, D. D.,
The Presbyterian,
1217 Market Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My dear Stewart:

I am sorry to have been delayed in answering your letter of June 14, but I have been going to and fro among the Synods, and we are shorthanded here just now so that I have to look after some other work besides my own.

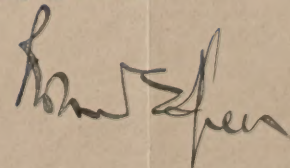
I shall be glad to look forward to the possibility of writing *some things* for you in the future if I can get other duties cleared that will be pressing for some months. I do have some ideas that I want to set forth some time with regard to the size of our Assembly and also with regard to the present provisions of our Constitution in the matter of Amendment. I think that we are very far from democracy and equity in the matter when a small Presbytery with three or four members carries the same weight in determining the most important questions in the Church that is carried by a Presbytery like Pittsburgh or Chicago. I think that the United Presbyterians have a much better provision in their Constitution. We had taken care of this inequity in the Plan of Union of our Church with the United Presbyterians, which was overwhelmingly approved by our Church but failed by a small majority in the United Presbyterian Church. I think that a study needs to be made some time also of the phrase "System of Doctrine," both as to its origin and history and its meaning. I have been gathering material on this for some years. Another matter to which thought needs to be given is the importance of adherence to the First Chapter of the Confession of Faith as understood by the Westminster Assembly Divines themselves. That is a glorious chapter, and we have been in danger in recent years both of reading things out of it and of reading things into it.

Some time when you are in the city I wish that you would stop in. I should like to have an opportunity of correcting some errors which evidently prevail in the minds of some of our good men with regard to the extent to which rotation in Boards of Directors is wise and also as to the real law of the Church in the matter.

Please be sure to remember me to your father when you see him this summer.

Very cordially yours,

RES:AMW





OTTAWA, 13th July, 1937.

Dear Mr. Robinson,

In the absence of Mr. Redfern, who is with the Governor General in Western Canada, I am acknowledging your letter of the 8th instant. The item from the life of General Jackson, which accompanied it, has been forwarded to His Excellency.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor
General.

Stewart M. Robinson, Esq.,

The Presbyterian,

1217 Market Street,

Philadelphia, Penna., U.S.A.

(This will be my
address for a
few weeks.) →

CAMMOCK HOUSE
PROUT'S NECK, MAINE

14 July / 37

Dear Dr. Robinson,

I have today heard from the
Bolportage Association of Chicago; in
regard to the two booklets of mine (which
I have sent to you) on "The Inspired
Bible" and on "Miracles".

The Association regrets that it
cannot go ahead with the work of
bringing these out in pamphlet form, (as
in the Evangel Series for example), for
reasons which they explain. They make
however, another suggestion which I have
copied from their letter, and enclose to
you herewith for your consideration. —
I would be glad to know whether you
think it feasible or not.

Again assuring you of my appre-
ciation of your interest in my writings,
Yours cordially, W. Bell Dawson

Regarding ^{two} booklets by Dr. W.B. Dawson, entitled: "The Inspired Bible and Human Opinion," and "Miracles and the Laws of Nature."

Suggestion made by the Bible Institute Colportage Association of Chicago, in letter of July 10, 1937:—

"We are quite sure that Dr. Robinson's readers will appreciate the opportunity when they appear in "The Presbyterian". This thought comes to us:— Why not have Dr. Robinson take the same type which he uses in his magazine and issue the material in booklet form, much the same as The Bible League? (For the Bible League took this method when the above originally appeared in booklet form, some six or eight years ago.) Inasmuch as the

type-setting will be eliminated from the cost, this arrangement would appear to be on the whole relatively inexpensive. If Dr Robinson personally did not see fit to go ahead with the publication, some other friend might be interested in using his metal for such a purpose."

(Copy of extract from
letter made by W.B.D.
14 July, 1937.)

SUDAN INTERIOR MISSION

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

July 22, 1937

Bear Friends everywhere:

This letter is an attempt, for the benefit of some of you who have not heard from us for a long time, to review briefly a few of the principal events in our lives during the time since I returned to Ethiopia in September, 1935, and to bring the record up to date for those who have had more recent letters. Perhaps a good starting point is our wedding. My bachelor days happily ended when on October 11th, 1935, Dorothea Kuehner became Mrs. Clarence Buff. We trekked on horseback and by mule caravan two days west from Addis Ababa for a delightful honeymoon of two weeks camping beside a lovely waterfall near the little village of Helotta. Since that we have "lived happily ever after."

Just after the plans for our wedding had been made news came that the war which had been threatening so long had actually broken out, but we decided that we would be married anyway, even though conditions might necessitate separation for a time. Actually, though I volunteered for Red Cross service and several times was about to leave for some other locality, something always hindered my going, and it was so ordered that I was not away for more than a few days. Dora, as treasurer and bookkeeper of the Mission, was kept busy at Headquarters. Since Dr. Lambie's time was largely taken up with Red Cross work, he asked Glen Cain and me to act as his deputies in the direction of the regular mission work, Mr. Cain in visiting the interior stations and me to work at Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Beside this work, Dora and I went into the city on Sundays for several months for meetings in two different places with native children. Rumors of all sorts were constantly heard in those days, but in general our missionaries here and in the interior carried on their work as usual and with some very encouraging results. A small Red Cross unit was formed from our missionaries to work on the southern front, while a few others treated the wounded in the north.

In February, 1936, the progress of the war in the south made it seem necessary to recall the women and children from the Sidamo area, but Mr. Mitchell returned to stay at Yerga Alem with Tom Bevers. These two men were massacred by Arussi Galla May 9th, 1936, while attempting to reach their loved ones in Addis Ababa after they had heard of the riots here. All the other interior stations were occupied until after the Italian army had entered Addis Ababa, and most of them until after the Italians had entered the respective provinces.

In April the situation here in Addis Ababa grew more and more tense. The first Italian plane had flown very high over the city on March 6th, but during April we had many visits from them. Actually they never bombed, but as no one knew whether they might or not they created considerable excitement, and our big dugout was a popular place for many of our neighbors as well as for our missionaries on occasion. Communications with our interior stations were very much interrupted, and from some we had had no word for months.

The record of the sudden and unexpected flight of the Emperor Haile Silasi in the early hours of May 2nd and of the fateful four days that followed before the arrival in Addis Ababa of the Italian forces has become history, most of which we do not need to repeat here. No one ever imagined that anything like this would happen, but the possibility of a general breaking up of

public order had been faced long in advance by the representatives of the different governments and plans had been made for the protection of their nationals. Arrangements had been made for the accommodation of British and Americans at the British Legation, and we had all been advised that we might go there in case of emergency. When the Italian army was reported to be nearing Addis our missionaries here and at the Leprosarium gathered together to discuss what we should do should there be a battle or other trouble, and unanimously decided that we should not take the offered protection, but quietly stay at our posts trusting God for protection. When it was suggested that the women might go to the Legation they one and all hotly rejected the proposition.

I shall not go into detail, but would like to state a few of the reasons that led us to this decision. First of all we felt that we should most honor God by trusting ourselves more nearly entirely to His care. Then had we gone we should have had to leave native servants to care for our houses and much of our goods, and their lives would have been endangered even more in our absence while our own would have been in comparative safety, and it seemed to us that this would be a poor testimony to the native Christians of our faith in God. Besides it seemed doubtful, as was afterward proved by the experience of others, if much that we owned would remain if we went away in a time of trouble. Not one of us has ever regretted this decision, though the nature of the trial was very different from anything we had thought of. For four days and nights there was almost constant shooting, most of it into the air, with the possibility that at almost any time there might be an attack on our premises, several times actual threats being made. To the praise of God we were brought through without any casualties or without having to inflict any, and not a thing was lost except three or four old mules which, with all our horses, had been foolishly let out in the pasture and naturally became the object of a small battle between some passersby and our servants. The same was true at the Leprosarium. As for the general havoc wrought in the city, later spreading on southward, I need not tell you.

Of the next few months I can write but little, except to say that most of our thought and effort was expended on the problem of getting into communication with our interior stations, trying to send them supplies, seeking to make arrangements for the relief of some who were in particular danger (there were none who were not in considerable danger), and later welcoming with great relief and joy those who were able to make their way back to the capital. As an illustration of conditions, we received our first letters from our missionaries in Walamo September 11th, having subsisted till then largely on rumours concerning their welfare, while letters from the Kambata missionaries, my old colleagues, did not arrive till November 3rd. After the looting of their houses they had been five months living in the homes of friendly natives with practically no clothes except those on their backs, no food except that which the country provided, and no beds except the earth floor of a hut, with inter-tribal war raging all about them and necessitating their moving from time to time to avoid the raids of unfriendly tribes. God graciously preserved their lives in the midst of difficulties and dangers that few of us are ever called upon to go through. He did not see fit to allow us to go through them with them, but how we did praise Him when our many prayers were answered and our suspense relieved by their letters saying they were safe in Walamo.

Lambie

On August 21st Dr. and Mrs. /left for America, leaving Mr. Cain and me in charge of the work on the field. Through the courtesy of the Italian military authorities several of our missionaries who were ill or were long overdue for furlough came to Addis Ababa. On December 2nd we were notified by the authorities that a

decree had been issued by the Viceroy expropriating all our property in Addis Ababa, i.e. "Headquarters" and the Leprosarium. Some months later another decree was issued expropriating all our interior stations as well. Through one circumstance and another our missionaries were gradually required to leave their stations until all our interior stations were vacated, the last missionaries to arrive in Addis Ababa being Walter Ohman and his wife, on April 28th of this year, not quite a year from the Italian occupation of Addis Ababa. Thereas there were sixty-one missionaries of the Sudan Interior Mission in thirteen stations in Ethiopia at the "close of the war", there are now but twenty-seven, and all in Addis Ababa. Nevertheless the work of the Lord still goes on. Our hearts have been gladdened by word of much blessing in some of our older fields, and by contact from time to time with believers who have come to Addis Ababa for a little time, while the work here (in Addis Ababa) has never held such prospect of vital results.

Early in January, under Mr. Cain's direction, the believers here held two weeks of special evangelistic meetings which were greatly blessed of God and resulted in some twenty men and women definitely confessing their faith in Christ as their Saviour. Since then several others have been added to the number and most of them, with those who had formerly believed, attend a class twice a week for instruction. There is the nucleus of a strong native church in this neighborhood. Since Mr. Cain left on June 11th I have been teaching these classes. Miss Smartt teaches the women separately once a week, while several of the young ladies do a considerable amount of calling, etc. in the homes.

Mr. & Mrs. Cain, with Mr. & Mrs. Ohman and two others, went in June to Khartoum to prepare the way for the new work which our Mission is taking up among some of the pagan tribes along the Ethiopian border in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Some of those who are unable to return to Ethiopia will doubtless be going to that field.

Dora and I, with Mr. Lewis, were in Jimma from May 22nd to 28th to come to an agreement with the local authorities concerning the value of all our Mission property in the southern area. While the errand on which we were sent was not a happy one, yet this little time in the interior proved to be a delightful vacation for us, the first vacation of any account since our honeymoon as well as an opportunity of seeing the Christians in Jimma. We were the guests of the Italian Government, taken and brought back in a military plane (our first ride in the air), entertained at their expense, and shown every kindness. Later we were asked to go to Dobra Marcos and Gondar to make estimates of our houses in the north, and actually flew one morning almost to the Blue Nile, but were turned back by fog and have not been able to go since.

In my attempt to cover too much ground I have not been able to include many things about which I would like to write. Some things are almost too sad to write even if I could. Others are very bright, and I wish that I might tell you of meetings with old friends from the south, of the progress of this one and that in the Christian life, of new-born believers and their joy, and also much more of our own personal happiness. Decrees notwithstanding we are still carrying on and are assured that we shall do so until God's work for us here is finished for a time at least. The grace of God has abounded toward us. There are serious problems. Pray for us. And if you can spare us time for a letter we shall be mighty happy. Dora has helped me get this letter off to you and joins me in love to you all.

Sincerely,

Clarence (W. Duff)

Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL.

TELEPHONE :
VICTORIA 1731.

BUCKINGHAM GATE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

July 26th.1937.

Rev Stewart M. Robinson. D.D.
Second Presbyterian Church.
East Jersey St nr Broad.
Elizabeth. N.J.

My dear Dr Robinson,

I am back home, and have before me your letter of June 28th.

I confess that I hardly know what to say to you about the proposition that you make. I presume that such a volume might be possible. Whether it would be of any value I do not know. It would certainly be a medley with such a mixture as you refer to in your list of possibilities. Of course Miss Howell, who has a file record of all my work, is the only one who could be of any help in gathering things together. Then it seems to me they could not be published save as they passed under my review for editorship. For instance, by that I mean you speak of having some which appeared in the "Christian World Pulpit". Now those so appearing I never had the chance of going through. The method of that publication is that of sending a reporter, and taking something down and printing without by-your-leave!

Having said so much, I think perhaps you would care to think the thing through, and write me again. I may say however that if such a thing was done, my own view is Revell would be the best publisher for it.

It was a great joy to both of us to see you and "Queen Anne" once more, and I shall hope that you will be visiting England before too long. Personally my present feeling is that I have certainly paid my last visit to the States.

With love to both of you,

Ever yours,

WMH.

